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New CARE Proposal

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By Peter Edson



shipments were continued for the Jewish refugees in Alexandria and the Gaza strip. Otherwise, no U. S. relief supplies have gone into Egypt for nearly two years.

President Nasser wants most desperately to have American relief shipments resumed. There is no question of need. Having one of the lowest living standards in the world, with more population than Egypt's arable land can support, millions of her people go hungry and sick, particularly the children.

What is proposed is a new \$70 million program for Egypt. The supplies would come from U. S. farm surpluses. They would be donated by the government, which would also pay ocean transportation costs.

CARE's part of the program would be packaging and

EGYPT and Poland today offer two tough tests on how far American private relief agencies should go in furnishing aid to people in countries under governments not cooperating with the U. S. or under Communist domination.

The State Department now has before it a proposal from CARE—the Cooperative for American Remittances Everywhere—to resume shipment of food parcels to the underfed Egyptians.

There was a \$45 million CARE program for Egypt up to the time the fighting started in November 1956. Some relief

supervising distribution, at a cost of \$1 a parcel, to make sure that supplies were not diverted to say—feeding Egypt's army.

On strictly humanitarian grounds, there are reasons for approving this program. The one great drawback is a fear that Col. Nasser would exploit this program to build himself up politically. Furthermore, if Col. Nasser's government was not using so much of his country's resources for military purposes, it would have more left to develop food supplies at home.

This situation is similar in some respects, different in others, to the CARE program just approved for Poland.

An initial shipment of \$11,000 worth of trade tool kits, Braille devices and machinery to make artificial limbs is now being distributed in Poland under American supervision.

A second, \$108,000 shipment of food, blankets, cotton and woolen suitings will reach Poland in mid-October. A third shipment of \$2000 worth of antibiotics is on the way.

Practically all of this aid, and more to follow, will go to the 500,000 repatriates from former East Polish lands seized by Stalin in 1939. The Russians are now releasing the Polish inhabitants of this area at the rate of 10,000 a month. Most of them are poverty stricken, many sick and crippled.

The aid which CARE will provide supplements the U. S. Government's authorized loan of \$95 million to Poland, half for the purchase of food, half for machinery. The Polish government has guaranteed that none of these supplies will be reshipped to other Communist countries.